

*Lilbury*

BOROUGH OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE

-----

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1957

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Including the  
REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
AND THE METEOROLOGICAL REPORT





B O R O U G H   O F   W E S T O N - S U P E R - M A R E

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
O F   T H E  
M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H  
F O R   T H E   Y E A R  
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Including the  
REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
AND THE METEOROLOGICAL REPORT



B O R O U G H   O F   W E S T O N - S U P E R - M A R E

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(January to May, 1957)

Chairman

COUNCILLOR LT.-COL. G.C.G. GREY

Vice-Chairman

COUNCILLOR H.S. ALLEN

ALDERMAN G.W. COUCH  
ALDERMAN A.J. HEYBYRNE  
COUNCILLOR N.W. HASKINS  
COUNCILLOR R. IVENS  
COUNCILLOR CAPT. J.L. TREVITT  
COUNCILLOR H.J. HOLCOMBE, J.P.  
(Mayor) (ex-officio)

ALDERMAN H. DODGSON, C.C.  
ALDERMAN D.H. MILLER-BARSTOW, M.A.  
COUNCILLOR L. HOLTBY, C.C.  
COUNCILLOR H.C. LANYON  
COUNCILLOR G.F. WADHAM  
COUNCILLOR G.A. PARROTT  
(ex-officio)

(May to December, 1957)

Chairman

COUNCILLOR LT.-COL. G.C.G. GREY

Vice-Chairman

COUNCILLOR H.S. ALLEN

ALDERMAN H. DODGSON, C.C.  
ALDERMAN D.H. MILLER-BARSTOW, M.A.  
COUNCILLOR N.W. HASKINS  
COUNCILLOR R. IVENS  
COUNCILLOR G.A. PARROTT

ALDERMAN A.J. HEYBYRNE  
COUNCILLOR L.G. EDWARDS  
COUNCILLOR L. HOLTBY, C.C.  
COUNCILLOR E.B. MOORE  
COUNCILLOR CAPT. J.L. TREVITT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

|                                                        |     |                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| Medical Officer of Health                              | ... | D. McGowan                      |
| Chief Public Health Inspector                          | ... | I.A. Stephenson                 |
| Abattoir Superintendent and<br>Public Health Inspector | ... | W.W. White                      |
| Public Health Inspectors                               | ... | G.P. Lawrence                   |
|                                                        | ... | E. Knowles                      |
|                                                        | ... | S. Joules                       |
|                                                        | ... | D. Collins (Left 31.3.57.)      |
|                                                        | ... | J. Richards (commenced 8.7.57.) |
| Clerical Staff                                         | ... | 5                               |

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

THE TOWN HALL,

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of  
The Borough of Weston-super-Mare.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough and the work of the Public Health Department in 1957.

For a number of reasons, the Report is presented much later than is usual, but I hope you will accept my apologies for this.

1957 will be remembered in Weston-super-Mare as the year during which there took place the very controversial Public Enquiries on the Clearance Areas in the centre of the town, and although the Council as a whole, and in particular, I myself as the Officer who represented the properties concerned as unfit for habitation, were subjected to considerable criticism for their action, I am sure that the future will show that the action taken was correct.

There were no major outbreaks of any of the notifiable infectious diseases during the year, and although six cases of poliomyelitis were notified, the majority of these were mild and made a complete recovery. Immunisation against poliomyelitis was started in a small way during 1957, and it is hoped that eventually this will eliminate, as with diphtheria, a disease which creates so much fear and alarm in the public mind. Of the other infectious diseases, tuberculosis of the lungs is gradually being overcome as a major cause of ill-health and disability and you will see from the report that only eleven new cases were notified in 1957, and there was only one death from this disease.

With regard to vital statistics for the year, the most striking feature is the very low rate of Infant Mortality - 9.4 per 1,000 live births. The cause of death in four of the five infants who died was prematurity, and it is obvious that efforts to lower the Infant Mortality Rate still further must be directed towards the causes of prematurity and the care of the pregnant mother.

Following the laying of the new water main from Sidcot to Banwell, work was started during the year on the new treatment works at Winthill, and following the Public Enquiry on the main drainage scheme in 1956, preparatory work continued during 1957 on the planning of the scheme, although the actual work itself did not start until 1958.

In conclusion, I want to refer with great regret to the recent death of Mr. I.A. Stephenson, the Chief Public Health Inspector. He was a very faithful and loyal servant of the Town for more than twenty years, and he will be missed by the many people who knew him both in his private and public life.

I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Committee with which the Health Department is associated and the Officers and Staff of the Council for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID MCGOWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

# S U M M A R Y   O F   S T A T I S T I C S

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (including foreshore) ... .. 7,006 acres  
 Population - Registrar-General's estimate  
     for mid-1957 ... .. 40,600

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1957

### Live Births:-

|              |     |     |     | Male       | Female     | Total      |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|------------|------------|------------|
| Legitimate   | ... | ... | ... | 252        | 251        | 503        |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | 14         | 14         | 28         |
| Totals       | ... | ... | ... | <u>266</u> | <u>265</u> | <u>531</u> |

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population = 12.3

Corrected Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 1.13) = 14.0

### Still Births:-

|              |     |     |     | Male     | Female   | Total    |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|----------|----------|
| Legitimate   | ... | ... | ... | 3        | 3        | 6        |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Totals       | ... | ... | ... | <u>3</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>6</u> |

Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) = 11.2

### Deaths:-

|  | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
|  | 280  | 324    | 604   |

Crude Death-Rate (per 1,000 population) = 14.9

Corrected Death-Rate (Comparability Factor 0.72) = 10.7

Maternal Deaths:- 1

### Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under 1 year of age)

|              |     |     |     | Male     | Female   | Total    |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|----------|----------|
| Legitimate   | ... | ... | ... | 3        | 2        | 5        |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
|              |     |     |     | <u>3</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>5</u> |

Infant Mortality Rate = 9.4 per 1,000 live births.

# VITAL STATISTICS

## BIRTHS

The Registrar-General gives the corrected number of live births in the town as 531 (266 boys and 265 girls), this being 57 more than in 1956. Of these births, 28 were illegitimate (14 boys and 14 girls). This is 5.3 per cent of the total live births, as compared with 2.3 per cent in 1956.

The crude birth rate for 1957 was 12.3, and when the comparability factor (1.13) is applied, the corrected birth rate was 14.0 per 1,000 of the total population, compared with 13.3 in 1956. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1957 was 16.1.

## BIRTH RATES

| Year                                                                           | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| England and Wales                                                              | 17.9 | 16.7 | 15.8 | 15.5 | 15.3 | 15.5 | 15.2 | 15.0 | 15.7 | 16.1 |
| Weston-super-Mare                                                              | 15.7 | 14.1 | 13.0 | 13.1 | 11.5 | 13.4 | 13.0 | 14.5 | 13.3 | 14.0 |
| Percentage of<br>Illegitimate<br>Births to Total<br>Births in<br>Weston-s-Mare | 6.4  | 7.3  | 5.7  | 5.8  | 4.6  | 6.0  | 5.2  | 5.4  | 2.3  | 5.3  |

## DEATHS

After correction for transferable deaths the total assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General was 604 (280 males and 324 females). This is 38 less than in 1956 and gives a crude death rate of 14.9 per 1,000 of population. When adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts, the local death rate was 10.7 compared with 11.5 for England and Wales as a whole.

## DEATH RATES

| Year                               | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| England and Wales                  | 11.6 | 12.5 | 11.3 | 11.4 | 11.3 | 11.7 | 11.7 | 11.5 |
| Adjusted D.R.<br>Weston-super-Mare | 11.4 | 12.1 | 11.2 | 9.8  | 10.0 | 10.6 | 11.4 | 10.7 |

# CAUSES OF DEATH 1957

| Causes of Death                                | 1957  |         |        | Difference<br>from 1956<br>figures |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|------------------------------------|
|                                                | Males | Females | Totals |                                    |
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory                   | 1     | -       | 1      | -4                                 |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other                         | -     | -       | -      | -1                                 |
| 3. Syphilitic diseases                         | 1     | 1       | 2      | 0                                  |
| 4. Diphtheria                                  | -     | -       | -      | 0                                  |
| 5. Whooping Cough                              | -     | -       | -      | 0                                  |
| 6. Meningococcal Infections                    | -     | -       | -      | 0                                  |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis                         | -     | -       | -      | 0                                  |
| 8. Measles                                     | -     | -       | -      | 0                                  |
| 9. Other infectious and<br>parasitic diseases  | 1     | -       | 1      | 0                                  |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm,<br>stomach             | 3     | 7       | 10     | 0                                  |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm,<br>lung, bronchus      | 12    | 1       | 13     | -8                                 |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm,<br>breast              | -     | 12      | 12     | -3                                 |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm,<br>uterus              | -     | 2       | 2      | -5                                 |
| 14. Other malignant and<br>lymphatic neoplasms | 27    | 24      | 51     | +1                                 |
| 15. Leukaemia, aloukaemia                      | 1     | -       | 1      | -2                                 |
| 16. Diabetes                                   | -     | 1       | 1      | 0                                  |
| 17. Vascular lesions of<br>nervous system      | 38    | 56      | 94     | +4                                 |
| 18. Coronary disease,<br>angina                | 65    | 51      | 116    | +5                                 |
| 19. Hypertension with heart<br>disease         | 5     | 12      | 17     | +7                                 |
| 20. Other heart disease                        | 30    | 69      | 99     | -14                                |
| 21. Other circulatory disease                  | 22    | 19      | 41     | +9                                 |
| 22. Influenza                                  | 2     | 4       | 6      | +1                                 |
| 23. Pneumonia                                  | 11    | 12      | 23     | -1                                 |
| 24. Bronchitis                                 | 9     | 6       | 15     | -16                                |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory<br>system    | 2     | -       | 2      | -6                                 |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and<br>duodenum           | 7     | 2       | 9      | 0                                  |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis, and<br>diarrhoea     | -     | 4       | 4      | +2                                 |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis                    | 5     | 4       | 9      | +5                                 |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate                    | 6     | -       | 6      | 0                                  |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth,<br>abortion         | -     | 1       | 1      | 0                                  |
| 31. Congenital malformations                   | -     | 1       | 1      | -1                                 |
| 32. Other defined and ill-<br>defined diseases | 21    | 23      | 44     | -9                                 |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents                    | 5     | 2       | 7      | -2                                 |
| 34. All other accidents                        | 3     | 4       | 7      | +1                                 |
| 35. Suicide                                    | 3     | 6       | 9      | 0                                  |
| 36. Homicide and operations of<br>war          | -     | -       | -      | -1                                 |
| All Causes - Total                             | 280   | 324     | 604    | -38                                |
| Deaths of infants under 1 year                 |       |         |        |                                    |
| Total                                          | 3     | 2       | 5      |                                    |
| Legitimate                                     | 3     | 2       | 5      |                                    |
| Illegitimate                                   | -     | -       | -      |                                    |

## SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1957.

| Ages at Death<br>in years | Males | Females | Total | Difference from<br>1956 figures |
|---------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------------------------------|
| Under 1                   | 3     | 2       | 5     | -6                              |
| 1 -                       | 2     | -       | 2     | +2                              |
| 5 -                       | 2     | -       | 2     | +1                              |
| 15 -                      | 3     | 2       | 5     | -2                              |
| 25 -                      | 10    | 9       | 19    | +4                              |
| 45 -                      | 69    | 48      | 117   | -4                              |
| 65 - 69                   | 20    | 31      | 51    | +4                              |
| <hr/>                     |       |         |       |                                 |
| Total under<br>70 years   | 109   | 92      | 201   | -1                              |
| 70 -                      | 44    | 59      | 103   | -2                              |
| 75 -                      | 48    | 54      | 102   | -28                             |
| 80 -                      | 45    | 54      | 99    | -10                             |
| 85 -                      | 23    | 45      | 68    | -5                              |
| 90 -                      | 10    | 17      | 27    | +4                              |
| 95 -                      | 1     | 2       | 3     | -1                              |
| Over 100                  | -     | 1       | 1     | +1                              |
| <hr/>                     |       |         |       |                                 |
| Total over<br>70 years    | 171   | 232     | 403   | -41                             |
| <hr/>                     |       |         |       |                                 |
| TOTALS                    | 280   | 324     | 604   | -42                             |
| <hr/>                     |       |         |       |                                 |

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was one death due to maternal causes in 1957.

## STILLBIRTHS

The registered number of stillbirths in 1957 was 6 (3 males and 3 females), of which none were illegitimate, thus giving a stillbirth rate of 11.2 per 1,000 total births.

## INFANT MORTALITY

Only five deaths occurred in 1957 in children under the age of one year, and all were in the first month. The Infant Mortality Rate was therefore 9.4 per 1,000 live births, the rate for England and Wales as a whole being 23.1 per 1,000 live births. Four of the five deaths were due to prematurity, the fifth being due to a congenital malformation.

INFANT DEATHS 1957

|              | Under<br>1 day | 1 - 2<br>Days | 2 - 7<br>Days | Total<br>under<br>1 week | 1 - 2<br>weeks | 2 - 4<br>weeks | Total<br>under<br>1 month | 1 - 3<br>months | 3 - 6<br>months | 6 - 9<br>months | 9 - 12<br>months | Total<br>under<br>1 year |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Prenaturity  | 3              | -             | 1             | 4                        | -              | -              | 4                         | -               | -               | -               | -                | 4                        |
| Spina Bifida | -              | -             | -             | -                        | -              | 1              | 1                         | -               | -               | -               | -                | 1                        |
| TOTAL        | 3              | -             | 1             | 4                        | -              | 1              | 5                         | -               | -               | -               | -                | 5                        |

INFANT MORTALITY RATES, 1944 - 1957

| YEAR                               | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| England and Wales                  | 46   | 46   | 43   | 41   | 34   | 32   | 29.8 | 29.6 | 27.6 | 26.8 | 25.4 | 24.9 | 23.8 | 23.0 |
| No. of deaths<br>Weston-<br>super- | 32   | 19   | 25   | 24   | 15   | 13   | 17   | 10   | 14   | 10   | 10   | 6    | 12   | 5    |
| Marc<br>I.M.R.                     | 47.8 | 30.7 | 40.9 | 34.8 | 24.1 | 23.1 | 32.5 | 19.2 | 30.7 | 18.8 | 21.7 | 11.6 | 25.3 | 9.4  |

# INQUESTS

| <u>Causes of Deaths</u>                                                   | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Totals</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Natural Causes ... ..                                                     | 2            | 1              | 3             |
| Occupational Causes:-                                                     |              |                |               |
| Pneumoconiosis ... ..                                                     | 1            | -              | 1             |
| Accidents, directly or indirectly:-                                       |              |                |               |
| Falls in home ... ..                                                      | -            | 2              | 2             |
| Road accidents ... ..                                                     | 5            | 2              | 7             |
| Asphyxia by being buried by sand at play ... ..                           | 1            | -              | 1             |
| Drowning ... ..                                                           | 1            | -              | 1             |
| Coal Gas Poisoning ... ..                                                 | -            | 1              | 1             |
| Suicide:-                                                                 |              |                |               |
| Coal Gas Poisoning ... ..                                                 | 2            | 5              | 7             |
| Barbiturate poisoning ... ..                                              | -            | 1              | 1             |
| Wounding of throat ... ..                                                 | 1            | -              | 1             |
| Chronic Alcoholism and Exposure ... ..                                    | -            | 1              | 1             |
| Toxaemia from septic instrumental abortion - circumstances unknown ... .. | -            | 1              | 1             |
|                                                                           | 13           | 14             | 27            |

# POPULATION

The Registrar-General gives 40,600 as the mid-year estimate of the normal resident population of the Borough in 1957, although the official Census Report for 1951 gives the population in that year as 40,396.

## REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF POPULATION IN WESTON-SUPER-MARE 1939 - 1957.

|                      |          |        |                   |
|----------------------|----------|--------|-------------------|
| (1931 Census 31,706) | 1948 ... | 39,710 |                   |
| 1939 ... 35,280      | 1949 ... | 39,830 |                   |
| 1940 ... 40,810      | 1950 ... | 40,210 |                   |
| 1941 ... 44,500      | 1951 ... | 39,660 | (Census - 40,396) |
| 1942 ... 41,250      | 1952 ... | 39,540 |                   |
| 1943 ... 38,100      | 1953 ... | 39,650 |                   |
| 1944 ... 37,930      | 1954 ... | 39,990 |                   |
| 1945 ... 37,470      | 1955 ... | 40,330 |                   |
| 1946 ... 38,890      | 1956 ... | 40,300 |                   |
| 1947 ... 39,590      | 1957 ... | 40,600 |                   |

# GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

## I. HOSPITALS

The hospitals providing accommodation and treatment for residents of the town and surrounding districts are administered by the South-West Regional Hospital Board, through the Weston-super-Mare Hospital Management Committee. The hospitals situated in the town are:-

Weston-super-Mare General Hospital  
Ashcombe House Maternity Hospital  
Drove Road Hospital  
Royal West of England Convalescent Hospital

## GERIATRIC HOSPITALS

Drove Road Hospital in Weston-super-Mare and Ilex Lodge Hospital in Axbridge deal with the sick and infirm old people in the area and although they are of great benefit in dealing with old people who cannot be nursed at home, the demand for beds in these hospitals is always much greater than the beds which are available. Waiting lists for admission, especially for women, are always long, and owing to the type of case requiring admission, the turnover of cases in these hospitals is very slow. The result is that many sick old people are being nursed at home in most difficult conditions, and the strain on relatives, and the home nursing and home help services is great.

The number of beds available in geriatric hospitals and Old People's Homes have increased considerably during the past few years, but the need for these beds has increased even more, so that the position is becoming worse each year.

## ASHCOMBE HOUSE MATERNITY HOSPITAL

There were 507 live births registered in the town during the year, and of these 409 occurred in Ashcombe House, 10 in other nursing homes, and 88 only at home.

Of the 409 live births which occurred in Ashcombe House, 331 were children of Weston mothers, the remaining 78 being children of mothers from other districts.

## II. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

The following services in the Borough are administered by the Somerset County Council

## INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

|                        |        |           |                   |
|------------------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|
| Bournville Public Hall | ...    | Monday    | 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. |
| 3 Nova Road            | ... .. | Tuesday   | 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. |
| Baytree Road           | ... .. | Wednesday | 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. |
| Moorland Road          | ... .. | Thursday  | 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. |

## INFANT WELFARE CLINIC ATTENDANCES, 1957

|                                                 | Bournville | Neva Road | Baytree Road | Moorland Road | TOTAL  |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|--------|
| Total attendance of children in 1957            | 2,668      | 3,200     | 3,256        | 1,677         | 10,801 |
| No. of individual children who attended in 1957 | 353        | 431       | 419          | 231           | 1,434  |
| No. of individual mothers who attended in 1957  | 267        | 376       | 323          | 191           | 1,157  |

### HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

There are five Health Visitors in the town, and the following is a summary of the Home Visiting work in 1957.

|                                 |     |     |     |        |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Visits to Ante-Natal cases      | ... | ... | ... | 295    |
| Visits to infants under 1 year  | ... | ... | ... | 3,245  |
| Visits to children 1 to 5 years | ... | ... | ... | 6,730  |
| Visits to school children       | ... | ... | ... | 1,049  |
| Visits re infectious diseases   | ... | ... | ... | 102    |
| Other visits                    | ... | ... | ... | 506    |
|                                 |     |     |     | 11,927 |

### DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE

Home Nursing is provided by this service, and the value of the work done by the District Nurses cannot be praised too highly. They deal with about 1,000 new cases each year.

### HOME HELP SERVICE

The work of the District Nurses is ably backed by the Home Help Service, which provides domestic help in cases of sickness and for old people.

### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The North-West Somerset Divisional Executive Area covers Weston-super-Mare and Axbridge Rural District. There are about 9,000 school children in the area in schools administered by the Education Authority, about 6,000 of whom attend schools in Weston-super-Mare. During 1957, 2,687 had a routine medical inspection in school, and in addition there were 1,310 special examinations and 2,191 re-examinations. Of the 2,687 children who had routine medical inspection, 259 were found to require treatment for some defect (apart from dental defect).

The Health Centre at 3 Neva Road houses an Infant Welfare Clinic, Minor Ailments Clinic, Speech Clinic, Ante-Natal Clinic, Child Guidance Clinic and the Family Planning Clinic in addition to being the headquarters of the District Nursing Service, the Home Help Service and the Mental Health Officer.

## AMBULANCE SERVICE

The County Council provides an Ambulance and Hospital Car Service through the agency of the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade. The group headquarters for the area is at 41 and 43, Oxford Street, Weston-super-Mare.

### III. LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES

#### FIRST AID POST AND CENTRE FOR LOST CHILDREN

The First Aid Post was again staffed during the summer season by members of the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade, and the Centre for Lost Children was in charge of a Matron appointed by the Police.

#### WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

In a town such as Weston-super-Mare, where the proportion of old people is higher than the average, the welfare of the elderly always gives cause for concern. At the Census of 1951 it was found that 18.1 percent of the population consisted of people aged 65 and over, as compared with 13.6 per cent for Somerset as a whole and 10.9 per cent for England and Wales as a whole, and a large part of the Welfare Services of the Local Health Authority, e.g. home nursing service, home help service and health visiting service, are concerned with the care of old people.

In addition, 37 per cent of hospital beds in the area are specifically for the care and treatment of the sick old person, and the Local Health Authority also provide three "homes" in the town. But despite the increase in facilities since the war, it is felt that much more is required - especially in the provision of hospital beds and places in Local Authority Homes.

During the year, no action was required under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for the compulsory removal of any old person who was in need of care and attention and who was living in insanitary conditions.

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL

Controlled tipping continued at the Old Junction Road site during the year. The tipping was carried out in a very satisfactory way and there were no complaints of nuisance from smell or vermin. The refuse tips are treated periodically for vermin, and the few rats which do try to make a home on the tip are soon killed off.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

The Banwell spring met normal winter demands but had to be supplemented by water from the Weston Well from the beginning of June until the middle of August. The quality of the raw water varied from time to time but the quality of the treated water was consistently good.

Under the Supplementary Water Supply Scheme, following the laying of the 16" diameter main from Sidcot to Banwell in 1956, work was started on the new treatment works at Winthill, Banwell in 1957.

In the town itself, various extensions to the water supplies were carried out, mainly to new private housing development estates.

## HOUSING

During 1957, the Local Authority erected 232 houses, 34 of which were for slum clearance purposes and 198 for other purposes. In 1956, 92 houses were erected by the Local Authority. Private enterprise built 174 houses in 1957 compared with 165 in 1956. At the end of the year there were 853 applicants on the waiting list for Council houses, compared with 640 at the end of 1955. Of these 853 applicants, 125 had been considered and approved by the Housing Sub-Committee which had been set up to investigate the merits of applications, 186 had been considered and removed from the Council list, and 542 had not yet been investigated.

The number of post-war houses erected in the Borough from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1957 is as follows:-

|                                           |              |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| (a) Erected by the Local Authority ... .. | 1,767        |
| (b) Erected by Private Enterprise ... ..  | <u>1,105</u> |
| Total                                     | <u>2,872</u> |

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act of 1954, required the Council to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government, proposals for dealing with houses in their area which appeared to them to be unfit for human habitation and liable to demolition. In August 1955, the Council submitted a list of 195 houses for action in this way and a start was made in 1956 by dealing with 28 individual unfit houses. In April 1957, Public Enquiries were held on the Castle Street-Little Carlton and Laura Buildings - Wilcox Place Compulsory Purchase Areas. No Public Enquiry was held on the Beecham's Cottages Area as no objections were made to the Council's proposals. The Minister of Housing and Local Government agreed with the Council's submission in each area. In November 1957, a Public Enquiry was held on the largest of the areas - the Carlton Street Area - but the decision of the Minister in this was not made known until late in 1958. The Carlton Street Area was the last of the clearance areas to be dealt with in the Council's five-year programme of Slum Clearance.

The number of applications received in 1957 for Improvement Grants under the Housing Acts 1949 - 54, numbered 58 involving a total of 76 houses. At the end of the year, 20 of these applications had been approved, 8 were rejected, and 30 were still being considered.

# PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

## NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1957

|                                              | Total cases<br>Notified |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Diphtheria ... ..                            | 7                       |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..                         | 21                      |
| Erysipelas ... ..                            | -                       |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..                     | 7                       |
| Measles ... ..                               | 53                      |
| Whooping Cough ... ..                        | 38                      |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..                   | 6                       |
| Acute Encephalitis ... ..                    | -                       |
| Dysentery ... ..                             | -                       |
| Food Poisoning ... ..                        | -                       |
| Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ... .. | -                       |
| Pneumonia (all types) ... ..                 | 13                      |
| Meningococcal Infection ... ..               | -                       |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..                 | -                       |
| Smallpox ... ..                              | -                       |
| Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ... ..              | 11                      |
| Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary) ... ..          | 5                       |

None of the notifiable diseases gave much cause for concern in 1957, apart from poliomyelitis, six cases of which were notified. Most of these were very mild with no paralysis and the patients all made a good recovery. There was no apparent connection between the cases.

Eleven cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and five of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, and only one death during the year was attributed to tuberculosis.

The epidemic of Asian influenza reached the town towards the end of the year, but did not seem to affect Weston-super-Mare as much as other parts of the country. Six deaths were attributed to influenza, all of which were among elderly people.

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE

### I. POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION

The Minister of Health introduced a scheme for immunisation against poliomyelitis in 1957, but owing to production difficulties, the amount of vaccine available during the year was very small, and in Somerset only 1,066 children were immunised. In Weston-super-Mare, 64 children received the vaccine.

### II. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS (B.C.G. VACCINATION)

In 1956, the County Council, as the Local Health Authority, introduced a scheme for the vaccination of children against tuberculosis. B.C.G. (Bacillus Calmetti-Guérin) vaccine is used and the offer is extended to all thirteen-year old children. The children are first given a skin test with tuberculin (Heaf Test) and if the skin reaction is negative, they are then vaccinated. Children showing a positive Heaf Test do not require vaccination, as the positive reaction shows that they have already had some infection with tuberculosis and

therefore have developed some immunity. A positive test does not necessarily mean that these children have active tuberculosis, as in the great majority of cases they have overcome the infection themselves and the disease is inactive, but these children and other members of the family are offered the chance of having a chest X-ray, to make sure that there is no active infection in the family.

241 thirteen-year old children in Weston-super-Mare had the preliminary Heaf Test and of these 35 were found to be positive (i.e. 14.6%). The remaining 206 negative reactors were vaccinated.

### III. DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

Again there were no cases of diphtheria notified in 1957 and since the end of the war only four cases have occurred in the town. The last death from diphtheria occurred in 1942. During the year, 368 children received primary immunisation against diphtheria. Most of them had the combined vaccine which also protects against whooping cough.

### IV. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

246 primary vaccinations and 45 re-vaccinations against smallpox were carried out by private general practitioners in the Borough during 1957. The following table, giving the age distribution of persons vaccinated shows that only 191 children under the age of 1 year received primary vaccination. (Number of live births in 1957 = 531).

Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in 1957

| Age Groups        | Under 1 |   | 1   |   | 2 - 4 |    | 5 - 14 |     | 15 & over |     | Total |     |
|-------------------|---------|---|-----|---|-------|----|--------|-----|-----------|-----|-------|-----|
|                   | P       | R | P   | R | P     | R  | P      | R   | P         | R   | P     | R   |
|                   |         |   |     |   |       |    |        |     |           |     |       |     |
| Weston-super-Mare | 191     | - | 11  | - | 12    | 2  | 9      | 8   | 23        | 35  | 246   | 45  |
| Somerset County   | 2850    | - | 141 | 5 | 144   | 23 | 184    | 107 | 173       | 308 | 3492  | 443 |

P = Primary Vaccination  
R = Re-vaccination

# R E P O R T O F P U B L I C   H E A L T H   I N S P E C T O R S '   D E P A R T M E N T

## HOUSING

Only 7 applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rents Act, 1957. No. of Certificates issued = 2.

### Housing Act, 1957

|                                                                                    |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Houses demolished                                                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Undertaking received in lieu of Demolition Order                                   |     |     |     |     |     | 7 |
| Houses in respect of which offers of work were accepted following formal procedure | ... | ... |     |     |     | 1 |
| Houses repaired - Section 9, Housing Act, 1957                                     |     |     |     |     |     | 9 |

### Improvement Grants

|                                        |     |     |     |     |    |
|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Applications received                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58 |
| Applications approved                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Applications rejected or withdrawn     | ... | ... |     |     | 8  |
| Applications still under consideration | ... |     |     |     | 30 |

### Housing Inspections

|                                                         |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Houses inspected under Public Health and/or Housing Act | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 133 |
| Re-visits                                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 623 |
| Houses inspected under the Housing Acts                 | ... |     |     |     |     | 196 |
| Re-visits                                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 240 |
| Visits re Council House Applications                    | ... | ... |     |     |     | 346 |
| Houses inspected re Overcrowding                        | ... | ... |     |     |     | 16  |
| Houses inspected re vermin                              | ... | ... | ... |     |     | 16  |
| Miscellaneous visits                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... |     | 613 |

## MOVABLE DWELLINGS

The number of licensed caravan sites in the Borough at the end of the year was 11, providing accommodation for 408 caravans. In general the sites and caravans were well maintained. The average caravan was designed primarily for holiday and temporary accommodation, however, and insufficient attention has, so far, been paid to insulation and fire resisting construction. During the winter months it is difficult to obtain adequate ventilation.

### VERMIN INFESTATION

The following action was taken:-

|                     |     |     |    |
|---------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Treatment - Primary | ... | ... | 16 |
| Secondary           | ... | ... | -  |
| Preventive...       | ... | ... | -  |
| To rooms            | ... | ... | 83 |

# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PEST ACT

The following is a detailed report of the Rodent Control work carried out during the year.

|                                                                                   | Local<br>Authority | Dwelling<br>Houses<br>(incl.<br>Council<br>Houses | All other<br>(including<br>Business<br>Premises) | Totals<br>of<br>Cols.<br>1, 2 & 3 | Agricul-<br>ture |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
|                                                                                   | 1.                 | 2.                                                | 3.                                               | 4.                                | 5.               |
| 1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District                             | 34                 | 14,877                                            | 629                                              | 15,540                            | 16               |
| 2. Number of properties inspected as a result of                                  |                    |                                                   |                                                  |                                   |                  |
| (a) Notification                                                                  | 5                  | 540                                               | 29                                               | 574                               | 3                |
| (b) Survey under the Act                                                          | 3                  | 10                                                | 1                                                | 14                                | 2                |
| (c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose                 | 2                  | 10                                                | 5                                                | 17                                | -                |
| 3. Total inspections carried out - including re-inspections                       | 124                | 618                                               | 97                                               | 621                               | 22               |
| 4. Number of properties inspected (in Sect.2) which were found to be infested by: |                    |                                                   |                                                  |                                   |                  |
| (a) Rats (Major                                                                   | -                  | -                                                 | -                                                | -                                 | -                |
| (Minor                                                                            | 4                  | 179                                               | 31                                               | 214                               | 2                |
| (b) Mice (Major                                                                   | -                  | -                                                 | -                                                | -                                 | -                |
| (Minor                                                                            | -                  | 3                                                 | 5                                                | 8                                 | -                |
| 5. Number of infested properties (in Sect. 4) treated by the Local Authority      | 4                  | 176                                               | 30                                               | 210                               | 2                |
| 6. Total treatments carried out - including re-treatments                         | 9                  | 214                                               | 52                                               | 275                               | 18               |
| 7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:                           |                    |                                                   |                                                  |                                   |                  |
| (a) Treatment                                                                     | -                  | -                                                 | -                                                | -                                 | -                |
| (b) Structural Work                                                               | -                  | -                                                 | -                                                | -                                 | -                |

# ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

During the year, 89 visits and observations were made by the department.

The Clean Air Act received the Royal assent on 5th July, 1956, but many of its provisions will not come into operation until the middle of 1958. Weston-super-Mare continues to be relatively free from serious nuisances from smoke, but whenever excessive emissions were observed appropriate action was taken.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

### 1. INSPECTION FOR purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

| Premises                                                                                                 | No. on Register | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupier Prosecuted |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities                     | 66              | 84          | -               | -                   |
| 2. Factories not included in 1. in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority                    | 193             | 217         | 2               | -                   |
| 3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) | -               | -           | -               | -                   |
| Total                                                                                                    | 259             | 301         | 2               | -                   |

### 2. CASES in which defects were found.

| Particulars                                                                 | Number of cases in which defects were found |          |                   |                   | Number of cases in which pro-secutions were instituted |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                             | Found                                       | Remedied | Referred          |                   |                                                        |
|                                                                             |                                             |          | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector |                                                        |
|                                                                             | -                                           |          |                   |                   |                                                        |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1)                                                   | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                      |
| Overcrowding (S.2)                                                          | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                      |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3)                                              | 1                                           | -        | -                 | 1                 | -                                                      |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4)                                                | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                      |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)                                        | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                      |
| Sanitary conveniences (S.7)                                                 |                                             |          |                   |                   |                                                        |
| (a) Insufficient                                                            | 1                                           | 1        | -                 | 1                 | -                                                      |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective                                                 | 1                                           | 1        | -                 | -                 | -                                                      |
| (c) Not separate for sexes                                                  | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                      |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                      |
| Total                                                                       | 3                                           | 2        | -                 | 2                 | -                                                      |

3. OUTWORK - Section 110 and 111 of the Factories Act, 1937.

| Nature of Work                                        | No. of outworkers<br>in August list<br>required by<br>Section 110 (1) | Section<br>III<br>Notices<br>Served |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wearing apparel (making etc.<br>Cleaning and Washing) | 6                                                                     | -                                   |

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are 6 premises registered as required by the Act, and during the year 4 samples were taken and reported upon by the public analyst as satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The registrations in respect of 4 premises were renewed. Routine inspections are made of all premises registered in accordance with the Act, and conditions found have been satisfactory.

SHOPS

During the year 154 routine inspections have been carried out in connection with the enforcement of the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926

Observations are constantly being made to ensure that prescribed foods are marked in accordance with the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act, and, except for isolated cases, the traders generally carry out the requirements satisfactorily.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS AND FOOD HYGIENE

Careful attention was given during the year to all catering establishments, and to the storage, preparation and display of food-stuffs to prevent accidental contamination. A steady improvement has undoubtedly taken place, but the success of any safe food campaign will depend on the maintenance of a high standard of personal hygiene by the staff and sterilisation of equipment.

It must not be forgotten that the public have a part to play. Dogs for instance are still being taken into food shops and cafes by customers instead of being left outside properly cared for.

The Food and Drugs Act provides additional powers in the control of conditions in food premises, but punitive action will never replace persuasion in this matter, and all health officers are convinced that education must play a major role in any real and lasting improvement as it is clear that cleanliness is an attitude of mind.

Number of Food Premises in Area (excluding registered dairy premises and ice cream premises).

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Bakers                    | 21  |
| Butchers                  | 43  |
| Fishmongers               | 15  |
| Fishfryers                | 11  |
| Grocers                   | 81  |
| Catering Premises         | 53  |
| Greengrocers              | 47  |
| Licensed Premises         | 31  |
| Hotels and Private Hotels | 206 |

Number of Food Preparing Premises Registered under Section 16 = 34

Inspections of Food Premises:-

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Abattoir                        | 465 |
| Bakehouses                      | 106 |
| Butchers Shops                  | 476 |
| Catering Establishments         | 473 |
| Dairies and Milk Shops          | 217 |
| Food Shops and Food Premises    | 725 |
| Ice Cream Shops and Premises    | 96  |
| Licensed Premises               | 39  |
| Visits re condemnation of Foods | 58  |
| Miscellaneous                   | 95  |

Samples Taken:

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Bottle rinses               | 6   |
| Drinking water              | 24  |
| Food                        | 118 |
| Ice Cream                   | 108 |
| Milk                        | 273 |
| Rag Flock and Other Filling |     |
| Materials                   | 4   |
| Swimming Bath Water         | 91  |

Unsound Food Condemned in the Town:

|          |          |        |         |
|----------|----------|--------|---------|
| Meat     | 719 lbs. | Cheese | 27 lbs. |
| Sausages | 118 "    | Oats   | 50 "    |
| Bacon    | 57 "     | Tea    | 25 "    |
| Rabbits  | 16 "     | Fish   | 473 "   |

Canned Goods:-

|                 |          |              |         |
|-----------------|----------|--------------|---------|
| Meat            | 360 cans | Flour        | 5 pkts. |
| Fruit           | 721 "    | Junket       | 11 jars |
| Fish            | 68 "     | Ginger       | 1 "     |
| Vegetables      | 334 "    | Horseraddish |         |
| Milk            | 57 "     | Sauce        | 30 "    |
| Jam and         |          |              |         |
| Marmalade       | 14 "     | Fish Balls   | 244     |
| Soups           | 17 "     |              |         |
| Cream           | 4 "      | Courvoture   | 66 lbs. |
| Creamed Rice    | 5 "      |              |         |
| Poultry         | 1 "      |              |         |
| Lemonade Powder | 28 "     |              |         |
| Fish Paste      | 131 "    |              |         |

Disposal of Condemned Food:-

All the above condemned foods are disposed of at the Corporation Refuse Tip.

# Food and Drugs Act

The number of samples submitted for analysis for the year 1957 was 118.

| No. of Samples | Description of Samples | Result of Analysis | No. of Samples | Description of Samples | Result of Analysis |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 34             | Milks                  | Genuine            | 1              | Buttered               |                    |
| 19             | C.I. Milks             | "                  | (Adult)        | Toast                  | Adult.             |
| 1              | Graded Milk            | "                  | 2              | Buttered               |                    |
| 1              | Peeled Tomatoes        | "                  |                | Toast                  | Genuine            |
| 2              | Margarine              | "                  | 1              | Bicarbonate            |                    |
| 2              | Fish Paste             | "                  |                | of Soda                | "                  |
| 2              | Butter                 | "                  | 1              | Peanut Butter          | "                  |
| 1              | Oxtail Soup            | "                  | 1              | Ground Cinnamon        | "                  |
| 1              | Glycerin               | "                  | 1              | Table Jelly            | "                  |
| 1              | Bradosol               | "                  | 1              | Instant Pudding        | "                  |
| 1              | Haliborange Tablets    | "                  | 1              | Pineapple Flavour      | "                  |
| 1              | Dandelion Coffee       | "                  | 1              | Desiccated             |                    |
| 1              | Chocolate Eclairs      | "                  |                | Coconut                | "                  |
| 1              | Lemonade Powder        | "                  | 1              | Whole Rice             | "                  |
| 1              | Mincemeat              | "                  | 1              | Rock                   | "                  |
| 1              | Cornish Pastie         | "                  | 1              | Rock Apple             | "                  |
| 1              | Aspirins               | "                  | 1              | Mussels                | "                  |
| 1              | Eight Rubbing Oils     | "                  | 1              | Crab Meat              | "                  |
| 1              | Minced Turkey          | "                  | 1              | Miracle Whip Salad     | "                  |
| 1              | Dripping               | "                  | 1              | Ice Foam Lemon         |                    |
| 1              | Malt Vinegar           | "                  |                | Crystals               | "                  |
| 1              | Coffee                 | "                  | 1              | American               |                    |
| 1              | Tea                    | "                  |                | Hamburgers             | "                  |
| 1              | Instant Postum         | "                  | 1              | Sponge Mixture         | "                  |
| 1              | Mushrooms              | "                  | 1              | Potato Puffs           | "                  |
| 1              | Chili Sauce            | Adult.             | 1              | Anchovies              | "                  |
| 1              | Fondant Icing          | Genuine            | 1              | College Pudding        | "                  |
| 1              | Semolina               | "                  | 1              | Almond Marzipan        | "                  |
| 1              | Demerara Sugar         | "                  | 1              | Pate-de-Foie           | "                  |
| 1              | Pork Pie               | "                  | 1              | Christmas Pudding      | "                  |
| 1              | Tomato Ketchup         | "                  | 1              | Cornflour              | "                  |
| 1              | Crab Paste             | "                  | 1              | Herbal Cough           |                    |
| 1              | Cecyces                | "                  |                | Mixture                | "                  |

## Ice Cream

|   |           |         |
|---|-----------|---------|
| 3 | Ice Cream | Genuine |
|---|-----------|---------|

## ICE CREAM

108 Bacteriological samples were taken in connection with the manufacture and sale of icecream, and in general, a satisfactory standard was maintained.

|             | Total Samples | Grades |       |       |      |
|-------------|---------------|--------|-------|-------|------|
|             |               | 1      | 2     | 3     | 4    |
| January     | 8             | 6      | 1     | 1     | -    |
| February    | 6             | 5      | 1     | -     | -    |
| March       | 6             | 6      | -     | -     | -    |
| April       | 7             | 7      | -     | -     | -    |
| May         | 12            | 7      | 1     | 3     | 1    |
| June        | 12            | 4      | 4     | 2     | 2    |
| July        | 12            | 6      | 1     | 3     | 2    |
| August      | 18            | 8      | 4     | 5     | 1    |
| September   | 12            | 10     | 1     | -     | 1    |
| October     | 8             | 5      | 2     | 1     | -    |
| November    | 7             | 3      | 4     | -     | -    |
| December    | -             | -      | -     | -     | -    |
| Total       | 108           | 67     | 19    | 15    | 7    |
| Percentages |               | 62.0%  | 17.6% | 13.9% | 6.5% |

## DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS

273 samples of designated milk were examined with the results given below.

| Designation of Milk | No. of Samples Tested | Appropriate Test               | No. of Samples Passed | No. of Samples Failed |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sterilised          | 2                     |                                | 2                     | 0                     |
| Tuberculin Tested   | 21                    | Methylene Blue                 | 20                    | 1                     |
| Pasteurised         | 250                   | Methylene Blue and Phosphatase | 238                   | 12                    |

The following licences were granted:-

|                   |     |     | <u>Dealers</u> | <u>Supplementary</u> |
|-------------------|-----|-----|----------------|----------------------|
| Pasteurised       | ... | ... | 40             | 5                    |
| Tuberculin Tested | ... | ... | 34             | 4                    |
| Sterilised        | ... | ... | 3              | 1                    |

## DRINKING WATER

24 samples of water for bacteriological analysis from taps in various parts of the district were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with satisfactory results.

## SWIMMING BATH WATER

91 samples of swimming bath water from the Open Air Swimming Pool and Knightstone Baths were submitted for bacteriological analysis.

The approximate number of bathers for the year was as follows:-

|                        |     |     |         |
|------------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Open Air Swimming Pool | ... | ... | 261,227 |
| Knightstone Baths      | ... | ... | 112,084 |

## OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is only one offensive trade, a gut scrapers business, which is operating at the Public Abattoir. This business has not caused any serious nuisance.

## SUMMARY OF VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

|                                              |       |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| Total number of inspections and visits ..... | 9,126 |
| Nuisances or complaints .....                | 456   |
| Cesspools .....                              | 61    |
| Cinemas and Public Buildings .....           | 5     |
| Drainage:                                    |       |
| Inspections .....                            | 272   |
| Tests .....                                  | 12    |

|                                                 |     |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Dustbins .....                                  | 128 |
| Factories - Power .....                         | 217 |
| Non-Power .....                                 | 59  |
| Workplaces .....                                | 25  |
| Infectious Disease visits .....                 | 20  |
| Food Poisoning .....                            | 3   |
| Interviews with Owners, etc. ....               | 473 |
| Miscellaneous visits .....                      | 381 |
| Offensive accumulations .....                   | 88  |
| Pet Animals Act .....                           | 3   |
| Public and Private Refuse Tips .....            | 399 |
| Rats and Mice .....                             | 621 |
| Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act ..... | 4   |
| Shops Act .....                                 | 154 |
| Smoke Abatement .....                           | 89  |
| Stables and Piggeries .....                     | 118 |
| Tents, vans and sheds .....                     | 399 |

#### WORK DONE

|                                                              |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Houses repaired (Housing and Public Health Acts) .....       | 42 |
| Houses repaired informally under Housing Acts .....          | 36 |
| Houses repaired formally under Housing Acts .....            | 5  |
| Houses repaired informally under Public Health Acts .....    | 1  |
| Roofs repaired or stripped and retiled or reslated .....     | 25 |
| Floors repaired .....                                        | 31 |
| Firegrates renewed or repaired .....                         | 2  |
| Doors repaired or new fixed .....                            | 3  |
| Windows renewed or repaired .....                            | 20 |
| Plastering of walls and/or ceilings repaired or stripped ... | 35 |
| Rain Water spouting or guttering repaired or renewed .....   | 10 |
| Walls pointed and repaired or rendered .....                 | 15 |
| External plaster repaired or re-rendered .....               | 16 |
| Chimney stacks and flues repaired or rebuilt .....           | 6  |
| Damp proof courses inserted .....                            | 3  |
| Yards etc. paved, repaired or relaid .....                   | 3  |
| Refuse bins provided .....                                   | 5  |
| Drainage:-                                                   |    |
| Drains cleared and cleansed or repaired .....                | 6  |
| Drains trapped and properly ventilated .....                 | 7  |
| Water closet flushing cisterns fixed or repaired .....       | 2  |
| New water closet pedestal fixed .....                        | 3  |
| Waste pipes fixed, repaired or reconstructed .....           | 2  |
| Accumulations of rubbish removed .....                       | 4  |
| Nuisances from overflowing cesspools abated .....            | 2  |
| Cleansing of pig styes etc. ....                             | 3  |

#### Infectious Diseases, Disinfections, etc:-

|                                 | <u>Rooms</u> | <u>Articles</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Scarlet Fever .....             | 9            | 4               |
| Tuberculosis .....              | 1            | 0               |
| Cancer .....                    | 8            | 0               |
| Non-notifiable infections ..... | 35           | 39              |
| Vermin .....                    | 83           | 0               |
|                                 | <hr/>        | <hr/>           |
| Total                           | 136          | 43              |

# MEAT INSPECTION

The number of animals killed at the Public Abattoir during the year and inspected were 52,419, compared with 57,148 in 1956.

The cost of running the Abattoir has risen considerably and despite stringent economies it is extremely doubtful whether it will be possible for the Abattoir to be self-supporting without some of these increases being absorbed in the form of higher charges.

It will be noted that the parasitic infestation known as Cysticercus Bovis, which is transmissible to man, has increased. 58 cases of infestation occurring in cattle giving an overall rate of 0.6%, a slight increase over last year. The classification of the 58 cases of Cysticercus Bovis is as follows:- 13 cows, 16 steers, and 29 heifers.

The following salvage was handed over to the West of England Meat Company:-

|                         | Tons | cwts. | qrs. | lbs. |
|-------------------------|------|-------|------|------|
| Condemned Meat ... ..   | 59   | 6     | 0    | 10   |
| Non-edible offals, etc. | 327  | 18    | 3    | 9    |
| Total                   | 387  | 4     | 3    | 19   |

## ANIMALS KILLED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR

|        | 1950   | 1951   | 1952   | 1953   | 1954   | 1955   | 1956   | 1957   |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Pigs   | 690    | 2,745  | 2,355  | 6,640  | 19,532 | 18,640 | 18,981 | 15,204 |
| Sheep  | 26,542 | 21,769 | 27,101 | 31,969 | 35,620 | 18,110 | 25,351 | 25,793 |
| Calves | 8,400  | 11,995 | 10,508 | 7,582  | 4,119  | 2,970  | 3,716  | 2,708  |
| Beasts | 10,370 | 10,120 | 9,120  | 9,042  | 8,897  | 6,996  | 9,100  | 8,714  |

Difference from the year 1956

|        |        |       |       |
|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| Cattle | Calves | Sheep | Pigs  |
| -386   | -1,008 | +442  | -3777 |

a general decrease of 4,729 animals.

The income from slaughtering charges, tolls and rentals was as follows:-

|                 |                             | £.    | s. | d. |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------|----|----|
| 1950            | .....                       | 4,225 | 19 | 6  |
| 1951            | .....                       | 4,366 | 8  | 9  |
| 1952            | .....                       | 4,332 | 6  | 6  |
| 1953            | .....                       | 4,592 | 16 | 10 |
| 1954            | .....                       | 5,605 | 19 | 5  |
| 1955            | .....                       | 6,741 | 17 | 6  |
| 1956            | .....                       | 9,162 | 2  | 10 |
| 1957            | Including rentals and tolls | 8,706 | 17 | 10 |
|                 | etc. as below:-             |       |    |    |
| <u>Abattoir</u> | Rentals .....               | 1,038 | 0  | 0  |
|                 | Car Washing Fees .....      | 125   | 2  | 6  |
|                 | Sale of manure to Parks     |       |    |    |
|                 | Committee etc. ....         | 149   | 16 | 0  |
| <u>Cattle</u>   | Rentals .....               | 177   | 16 | 0  |
| <u>Market</u>   | Tolls .....                 | 352   | 15 | 4  |

# CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

|                                                                                                 | CATTLE<br>including<br>COWS | CALVES | SHEEP<br>and<br>LAMBS | PIGS   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| Number Killed                                                                                   | 8,714                       | 2,708  | 25,793                | 15,204 |
| Number inspected                                                                                | 8,714                       | 2,708  | 25,793                | 15,204 |
| <u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>                                       |                             |        |                       |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned                                                                       | 42                          | 38     | 48                    | 133    |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned                                             | 3,030                       | 24     | 799                   | 1,243  |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci | 35.25%                      | 2.28%  | 3.28%                 | 9.05%  |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u>                                                                        |                             |        |                       |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned                                                                       | 32                          | -      | -                     | 8      |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned                                             | 790                         | -      | -                     | 234    |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis                                   | 9.43%                       | -      | -                     | 1.59%  |
| <u>Cysticercosis</u>                                                                            |                             |        |                       |        |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned                                             | 45                          | 13     | -                     | -      |
| Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration                                               | 45                          | 13     | -                     | -      |
| Generalised and totally condemned                                                               | -                           | -      | -                     | -      |

## DISEASED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The total weight of diseased, unsound or injured meat and organs condemned was:-

| <u>Tuberculous Meats:-</u>                                  | Tons | cwts. | qrs. | lbs. | Tons | cwts. | qrs. | lbs. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| Beef and organs including<br>32 carcasses and 8 quarters    | 14   | 5     | 1    | 8    |      |       |      |      |
| Pigs and organs including<br>8 carcasses                    | 1    | 14    | 2    | 17   |      |       |      |      |
| Total weight of tuberculous meat                            |      |       |      |      | 15   | 19    | 3    | 25   |
| <u>Non-Tuberculous Meat:-</u>                               |      |       |      |      |      |       |      |      |
| Beef and organs, including<br>42 carcasses and 72 quarters  | 32   | 2     | 0    | 9    |      |       |      |      |
| Pigs and organs, including<br>133 carcasses and 85 quarters | 8    | 5     | 1    | 4    |      |       |      |      |
| Sheep and organs, including<br>48 carcasses and 33 quarters | 2    | 1     | 1    | 19   |      |       |      |      |
| Calves and organs, including<br>38 carcasses and 5 quarters |      | 17    | 1    | 9    |      |       |      |      |
| Total weight of non-tuberculous meat                        |      |       |      |      | 43   | 6     | 0    | 13   |
| Total weight of all condemned meat                          |      |       |      |      | 59   | 6     | 0    | 10   |

1957. DISEASED OR INJURED MEAT CONDEMNED AT THE ABATTOIR

| TOTALS                        | 74 | 80 | 342 | 650 | 2,184 | 159 | 150 | 255 | 38 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 1 | 48 | 33 | 6 | 187 | 573 | 141 | 85 | 180 | 796 | 243 | 173 |
|-------------------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|---|---|----|---|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Peritonitis                   | -  | -  | -   | -   | -     | -   | -   | -   | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | -   | -   | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Inflammation                  | -  | -  | -   | -   | -     | -   | -   | -   | 5  | - | 2 | 6  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | 105 | -   | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Necrosis                      | -  | -  | -   | -   | 90    | -   | -   | -   | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | -   | -   | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Bruising                      | -  | 72 | -   | -   | -     | -   | -   | -   | -  | 3 | - | -  | - | -  | 19 | - | -   | -   | -   | 46 | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Dead                          | -  | -  | -   | -   | -     | -   | -   | -   | -  | - | - | -  | - | 9  | -  | - | -   | -   | -   | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Jaundice                      | -  | -  | -   | -   | -     | -   | -   | -   | 1  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | -   | -   | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Innaturity                    | -  | -  | -   | -   | -     | -   | -   | -   | 4  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | -   | -   | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Erysipelas                    | -  | -  | -   | -   | -     | -   | -   | -   | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | -   | 18  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Gangrene                      | -  | -  | -   | -   | -     | -   | -   | -   | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | -   | 14  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Oedema                        | 5  | -  | -   | -   | -     | -   | -   | -   | 5  | - | - | -  | - | 5  | -  | - | -   | -   | 35  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Septic                        | -  | -  | -   | 85  | -     | -   | -   | -   | -  | - | - | -  | - | 13 | -  | - | 60  | -   | 39  | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Cysticercus Bovis             | -  | -  | 58  | 58  | -     | -   | -   | 58  | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | -   | -   | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Cystic                        | -  | -  | -   | -   | -     | -   | -   | -   | -  | - | 2 | -  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | 262 | -   | -  | -   | 177 | -   | -   |
| Johne's Disease               | 12 | -  | -   | -   | -     | 54  | -   | -   | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | -   | -   | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Pneumonia                     | -  | -  | -   | -   | 134   | -   | -   | -   | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | 11 | - | 65  | -   | -   | -  | -   | 309 | -   | -   |
| Pericarditis                  | 5  | -  | -   | 68  | -     | -   | -   | -   | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | -   | -   | -  | 249 | -   | -   | -   |
| Emaciation                    | -  | -  | -   | -   | -     | -   | -   | -   | -  | - | - | -  | - | 16 | -  | - | -   | -   | -   | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Fever                         | 15 | -  | -   | -   | -     | 24  | 41  | -   | 17 | - | - | -  | - | 5  | -  | - | -   | -   | 27  | -  | -   | -   | -   | 55  |
| Angioma                       | -  | -  | -   | -   | 515   | -   | -   | -   | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | -   | -   | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Actinomycolosis               | -  | -  | 70  | -   | -     | -   | -   | -   | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | -   | -   | -  | -   | -   | -   | -   |
| Abscesses                     | -  | -  | 56  | 89  | 269   | 35  | 46  | 107 | 6  | 2 | 3 | 5  | 1 | -  | 3  | 6 | 62  | -   | -   | 39 | 68  | -   | 69  | -   |
| Cirrhosis (Distoma Hepaticum) | -  | -  | -   | -   | 1101  | -   | -   | -   | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | 206 | -   | -   | -  | -   | 174 | -   | -   |
| Tuberculosis                  | 32 | 8  | 158 | 216 | 209   | 46  | 63  | 90  | -  | - | - | -  | - | -  | -  | - | -   | -   | 8   | -  | 112 | 61  | -   | 61  |

CATTLE:

Carcases and offal  
Part carcases  
Heads and Tongues  
Lungs and Hearts  
Livers  
Guts  
Tripes  
Skirts

CALVES:

Carcases  
Part carcases  
Livers  
Plucks  
Heads

SHEEP:

Carcases  
Part carcases  
Heads  
Plucks  
Livers

PIGS:

Carcases  
Part carcases  
Heads  
Plucks  
Livers  
Guts

## M E T E O R O L O G Y

1 9 5 7

Rainfall for the year was comparatively high, in spite of two periods of dry weather within the first six months. It exceeded the 10-year (1947-56) average of 29.42 inches by 1.73 inches, while the sunshine records showed an increase of 144.8 hours over the 10-year average of 1499.4 hours.

A period of drought occurred from April 19th to May 6th, exceeding the "official drought" period of 15 days by 3 days. A further period of dry weather was recorded at the end of May and beginning of June, but extended for 14 consecutive days only.

Rainfall during January, February, July, August, September and October was well above the 10-year average, while April had the lowest fall since 1893 (.06 inches).

January's maximum temperature of 56° was the highest since 1948 (56.5°), and March and June also had their highest since 1949 (65°) and 1956 (87.9°) respectively. May, September and November recorded the lowest maximum temperatures since 1949 (60.1°), 1925 (66°) and 1934 (55°) respectively. October's minimum temperature of 39° was the highest since 1945 (39.8°).

The total sunshine hours during June (308.2 hours) were the highest this century. December also recorded the highest since 1952 (63.2 hours), while March, August and October totals were the lowest since 1951 (88.5 hours), 1922 (130.3 hours) and 1946 (78.4 hours) respectively.

Snow was recorded on one evening in February only. Thunder occurred on 8 days, fog on 19 days, ground frost on 43 days, and gale force winds on 5 days during the year.

MONTHLY RESULTS OF CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS 1957

| MONTH             | AIR TEMPERATURES |       |      |       |          |       |      | Relative Humidity<br>9 a.m. | Amount<br>of<br>Cloud<br>9 a.m. | Radiation<br><br>Min. on<br>Grass<br><br>Means | RAIN                                        |         | SUN<br><br>Number<br>of<br>Hours | Sea<br>Tempera-<br>tures. |
|-------------------|------------------|-------|------|-------|----------|-------|------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                   | MEANS            |       |      |       | EXTREMES |       |      |                             |                                 |                                                | Amount<br>Inches<br>with<br>.04"<br>or more |         |                                  |                           |
|                   | DRY              | MAX.  | MIN. | RANGE | MEAN     | MAX.  | MIN. |                             |                                 |                                                |                                             |         |                                  |                           |
| January           | 43.1             | 47.8  | 38.3 | 9.5   | 43.1     | 56.0  | 28.0 | 5.8                         | 34.0                            | 3.00                                           | 11                                          | 49.0    | 43.6                             |                           |
| February          | 42.9             | 49.3  | 38.8 | 10.5  | 44.0     | 53.9  | 28.3 | 5.8                         | 33.5                            | 2.77                                           | 14                                          | 89.1    | 45.7                             |                           |
| March             | 49.8             | 55.8  | 44.3 | 11.5  | 50.1     | 64.0  | 32.0 | 5.8                         | 39.7                            | 2.47                                           | 13                                          | 95.5    | 48.7                             |                           |
| April             | 49.6             | 56.6  | 43.3 | 13.3  | 49.9     | 64.3  | 37.0 | 4.4                         | 38.3                            | 0.14                                           | 2                                           | 182.3   | 53.1                             |                           |
| May               | 54.1             | 60.2  | 45.1 | 15.1  | 52.6     | 66.9  | 36.7 | 5.1                         | 39.4                            | 1.34                                           | 7                                           | 222.1   | 55.6                             |                           |
| June              | 62.2             | 70.9  | 52.0 | 18.9  | 61.4     | 84.6  | 43.0 | 3.4                         | 46.0                            | 1.44                                           | 7                                           | 308.2   | 62.2                             |                           |
| July              | 63.6             | 70.8* | 57.0 | 13.8  | 63.9     | 82.0* | 48.1 | 6.0                         | 53.3                            | 3.84                                           | 14                                          | 166.6   | 65.7                             |                           |
| August            | 62.3             | 67.7  | 55.5 | 12.2  | 61.6     | 78.0  | 46.0 | 5.2                         | 51.2                            | 3.46                                           | 11                                          | 193.4   | 65.3                             |                           |
| September         | 57.5             | 61.9  | 52.6 | 9.3   | 57.2     | 66.9  | 45.1 | 5.6                         | 48.5                            | 3.97                                           | 16                                          | 128.6   | 61.2                             |                           |
| October           | 53.5             | 58.8  | 47.9 | 10.9  | 53.3     | 65.8  | 39.0 | 6.1                         | 42.2                            | 3.43                                           | 11                                          | 87.8    | 57.1                             |                           |
| November          | 43.2             | 48.1  | 39.0 | 9.1   | 43.5     | 55.0  | 28.4 | 6.1                         | 34.8                            | 3.25                                           | 6                                           | 62.8    | 51.5                             |                           |
| December          | 41.1             | 46.0  | 36.8 | 9.2   | 41.4     | 55.9  | 25.2 | 5.0                         | 23.0                            | 1.95                                           | 13                                          | 58.8    | 44.3                             |                           |
| Means &<br>Totals | 51.9             | 57.8* | 45.9 | 11.9  | 51.7     | 68.1* | 36.4 | 5.3                         | 40.3                            | 31.06                                          | 125                                         | 1,644.2 | 54.5                             |                           |

\* Incomplete owing to Maximum Thermometer being out-of-order for part of July





